



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/532,838	04/19/2005	Thomas Bernhard Pabst	003D.0043.U1(US)	9148
29683	7590	11/02/2005	EXAMINER	
HARRINGTON & SMITH, LLP 4 RESEARCH DRIVE SHELTON, CT 06484-6212			DINH, PHUONG K	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2839	

DATE MAILED: 11/02/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

AK

<b>Office Action Summary</b>	<b>Application No.</b>	<b>Applicant(s)</b>	
	10/532,838	PABST, THOMAS BERNHARD	
	<b>Examiner</b>	<b>Art Unit</b>	
	Phuong KT Dinh	2839	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 19 April 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-7 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All    b) ☐ Some \*    c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)                        | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)                     |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)               | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____  |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>04/05</u> .   | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                                    |

### DETAILED ACTION

The numeral 12 in figure 2 does not discuss in the specification.

#### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1, 3, and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Redmond (U. S. Patent 5,015,197) in view of Etters (U. S. Patent 6,010,359).

Regarding claim 1, Redmond discloses connector arrangement between a cable 54 and a component of an electrical circuit, wherein the cable 54 has conductor regions stripped of insulation on one side of its end being connected, comprising a housing 70 in which the end of the cable is clamped, the component comprising an uptake 78 (figure 14) for the housing 70, in which the housing 70 can be locked (see figure 5) and in which contact tracks are arranged, against which the stripped regions of the cable 54 are pressed when the housing 72 is in the final position thereof in the uptake 78, characterized in that the component is an electrical circuit board 100 and the uptake forms a bracket, which is attached to the circuit board 100 above an arrangement of conductive tracks and the housing is guided laterally and perpendicularly with respect to the circuit board 100. Redmond discloses the claimed invention except for a flat flexible cable and elastic pressure means. Etters discloses a flat flexible cable at 12 and elastic pressure means 46 (figure 8). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the

Art Unit: 2839

art at the time the invention was made to modify Redmond the flat flexible cable and elastic means as taught by Etters so as to provide for resiliently biasing the signal conductor outwardly.

Regarding claim 3, Redmond discloses the claimed invention except for its end that is introduced into the flat flex cable has perforations on housing, in which a strain relief with retaining pins, which is hinged on the bottom housing part, engages in a lockable manner. Etters discloses the flex cable has perforations on housing, which a strain relief with retaining pins, which is hinged on the bottom part, engages in a lockable manner. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Redmond to provide the flex cable has perforations on housing, which a strain relief with retaining pins, which is hinged on the bottom part, engages in a lockable manner as taught by Etters so as to provide for better engagement.

Regarding claim 7, Redmond discloses on the top inner side of the uptake, there is constructed at least one ramp, which presses, through at least one opening in the top side of the housing, all or individual steel springs downward on the flat flex cable stripped of insulation.

3. Claims 2 and 4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Redmond (U. S. Patent 5,015,197) in view of Etters (U. S. Patent 6,010,359) and further in view of Geltsch (U. S. Patent 6,773,288).

Regarding claim 2, Redmond and Etters disclose the claimed invention except for and a top part, attached to the bottom part, which has the spring elements opposite

the opening, with which the flat flex cable is subjected to pressure. Geltsch discloses the spring element 5b opposite the opening with the flat flexible cable is subjected to pressure. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Redmond and Etters to provide the spring element as taught by Geltsch so as to provide for pressing together the flexible flat strip cable to be connected in the area which have been stripped of insulation.

Regarding claim 4, Redmond and Etters disclose the claimed invention except for the elastic element consists of one or more steel leaf springs. Geltsch discloses as discussed above.

4. Claims 5 and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Redmond (U. S. Patent 5,015,197) in view of Etters (U. S. Patent 6,010,359) and further in view of Aoki (U. S. Patent 6,949,316).

Regarding claim 5, Redmond and Etters disclose the claimed invention except for the top housing part is hinged on its front side to the bottom housing part and can be locked in place via catch hooks on the bottom housing part. Aoki discloses the top housing part 34 is hinged on its front side to the bottom housing part and can be locked in place via catch hooks on the bottom housing part. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify Redmond and Etters to provide the top housing part is hinged on its front side to the bottom housing part and can be locked in place via catch hooks on the bottom housing part as taught by Aoki so as to provide easy to open and closed.

Regarding claim 6, Redmond and Etters disclose the claimed invention except for the housing can be locked in place via catch arms in catch openings on the side walls of the bracket. Aoki discloses as discussed above.

***Conclusion***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Phuong KT Dinh whose telephone number is 571-272-2090. The examiner can normally be reached on 8 -5, 5 days a week.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, TC Patel can be reached on 571-272-2098. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Phuong KT Dinh', with a stylized flourish.

Phuong Dinh  
October 20, 2005

Phuong KT Dinh  
Primary Examiner  
Art Unit 2839